

Message Text

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44

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 SY-04 EB-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 ACDA-05 SAB-01 /091 W

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R 251555Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1508

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NY

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 14095

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PLO, XF

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SUBJECT: PLO REACTS STRONGLY TO VC-10 HIJACKING

REF: BEIRUT 13020 (NOTAL)

1. PLO NEWS AGENCY (Wafa) REACTED STRONGLY NOV. 25 TO RECENT HIJACKING OF BOAC VC-10. IN STATEMENT ISSUED HERE, Wafa SERVED NOTICE THAT PLO WOULD MOVE AGAINST "MERCENARIES" IMPLICATED IN HIJACKING AND WOULD DISCLOSE FULLY "SECRETS" OF THOSE BEHIND THE INCIDENT. IN CLEAR REFERENCE TO ARAB REGIMES GIVING REFUGE AND SUPPORT TO PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS NOT UNDER PLO CONTROL, Wafa WROTE: "WHILE OUR REVOLUTION IS EAGER TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH ALL OUR ARAB BROTHERS, THESE RELATIONS CANNOT CONTINUE AT EXPENSE OF CAUSE OF OUR PEOPLE AND ITS REVOLUTION."

2. MEANWHILE PRESS REPORTS OVER WEEKEND, WHICH INDICATED IRAQ AND LIBYA ARE OBJECTS OF PLO WRATH, SUGGEST THAT PLO INTENDS DEMAND THAT BAGHDAD HAND OVER ABU NIDAL (MAZEN SABRI AL BANNA), BREAK-AWAY FATAH REP IN IRAQ, TO PLO. AS REPORTED REFTEL, ABU NIDAL, WHO HAS ALLEGEDLY DENIED COMPLICITY IN LATEST HIJACKING, IS ALREADY UNDER DEATH SENTENCE PRONOUNCED IN ABSENTIA BY FATAH REVOLUTIONARY COURT IN LATE OCTOBER.

3. COMMENT: HIJACKING OF VC-10 -- INASMUCH AS IT CARRIED OUT BY PERSONS WHO PLO CLAIMS TO REPRESENT -- OBVIOUSLY CAUSING GREAT DISCOMFORT TO PLO LEADERSHIP AT TIME WHEN ORG. ACHIEVING GREATER INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND ATTEMPTING DON MANTEL OF LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND PLAY DOWN ITS TERRORIST IMAGE. 'ARAFAT & CO., NUDGED ALONG BY INDIGNATION OF EGYPT AND OTHER KEY ARAB GOVTS., APPARENTLY REALIZE DAMAGE SUCH ACTS CAN CAUSE PLO, BOTH IN TERMS ITS INTENTIONS AND ITS CLAIM TO REPRESENT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. CORRECTIVE ACTION HOWEVER, COULD NOT ONLY JEOPARDIZE PLO RELATIONS WITH IRAQ AND PERHAPS LIBYA, BUT ALSO EXACERBATE TENSIONS WITHIN MOVEMENT. WE SHALL BE WATCHING PLO HANDLING THIS CRISIS CLOSELY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER A) IT FORESHADOWS PLO DETERMINATION BEHAVE MORE "RESPONSIBLY" IN ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT; AND B) 'ARAFAT
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& CO. DECIDE USE THIS OCCASION TO TAKE TOUGHER ACTION AGAINST "REJECTIONISTS" AND OTHER ELEMENTS WHICH TAKE ISSUE WITH "PARTY LINE". AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, CLASHES AMONG VARIOUS FEDAYEEN FACTIONS HERE.
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